

WANT COUNTY HEAD FOR AGRICULTURE

Guilford Farmers Want a Commissioner

UNDER THE NEW LAW

This Was Determined On at a Meeting of the Guilford County Branch of Farmers' Cooperative Union—County Commissioners Will Be Petitioned to Create the Office.—Examinations for Census Supervisors. Dog Controversy Causes a Scrap.

BY ANDREW JOYNER.

Greensboro, N. C., Feb. 5.—At a largely attended meeting in the court house here today of farmers composing the membership in Guilford County branch of the Farmer's Co-operative Union, a resolution urging the Board of County Commissioners to employ a competent farmer to fill the position of Commissioner of Agriculture for Guilford County, was unanimously adopted. Although the sessions of the Union were executive, it was freely given out that the resolution was the occasion of several enthusiastic talks commendatory of the law authorizing this office which was passed by the last Legislature. The whole discussion turned on whether it was not high time to create for the county a special department of Agriculture to look after the county's interests in this important matter, as is done in the matter of schools and roads. It was unanimously agreed that there should be a commissioner of Agriculture for the county to act in cooperation with the National and State Boards of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners be requested to create the department. A committee was selected to present the resolution to the Board of County Commissioners at their meeting next Tuesday. The law under which the Board is asked to act, was introduced by Representative Gordon, and was passed at the last General Assembly, reading as follows:

"Sec. 1. That the Board of Commissioners of Guilford County are hereby empowered, if in their judgment it shall be for the best interests of said county, to employ some person educated and skilled in agriculture and sanitation, who shall be a bacteriologist to assist in building up the agricultural interests of the county and the protection of the health of its inhabitants.

"Sec. 2. That said Board shall fix his compensation and the time for which he shall be employed."

Among other matters of importance considered was the question of fertilizers, the prices, etc. An address was made on the subject of fertilizers and the best means of purchase and of use, by Mr. G. O. Smith, of Coats, one of the State officers of the Union.

Applicants for Census Taking.
The examination of applicants for census taker in this city and county was held here today. An examination for High Point was held there. A class of twelve negroes was examined in the morning in the civil service room of the Federal building. At Lindley Street graded school in the afternoon a class of seventy-five white applicants was examined.

Here's a Fight.

The piece Mr. Bob Rice wrote about his dogs, and had published in all the city papers, brought forth a very spirited reply from Mr. S. O. Melvin, one of the parties named by Mr. Rice in connection with the mad dog prosecutions.

The reply of Mr. Melvin appeared yesterday morning, and in about two hours Messrs. Rice and Melvin met, and in a few moments thereafter "hit each other." There was a lively knock-out proceeding between the two before bystanders parted the belligerents. In fighting for his dogs, Mr. Rice displayed the same spirit that he showed a few months ago, when on a Southern train. He was sitting quietly reading a newspaper when some burly fellow very roughly ordered a scantily clad lady and her little girl up out of his seat. The lady, not knowing the "ethic" of traveling, did not appear to be willing to get up; when the fellow talked so roughly to her she began to weep in fear. Mr. Rice didn't do a thing but get up, walk to where the fellow was standing in the aisle, and gave him a first-class drubbing, and then kicked him

STRAWBERRY PLANTS

Millions of them—Klondyke, Lady Thompson, Arma, Excelsior and Gaudy. Send \$2.50 for 1,000 plants.

JOHN LIGHTFOOT.
East Chattanooga, Tenn.

into the next car. The passengers were so pleased with this gallantry, they crowded around the Goose Grease magnate and showered him with compliments and expressions of gratitude. The licked fellow took his medicine and never made complaint against either Rice or the railroad for his lambasting.

Arrested for Forgery.

J. J. Mullroney, of Charlotte, a white man about seven feet tall, who has been hanging around Greensboro for several weeks, was arrested and locked up last night on a warrant from Charlotte charging him with forging a check for \$25 on Charles Shuman, of that city. A Charlotte officer arrived here this morning and took the prisoner back to where he is wanted.

Great Street Thieves.

Street thieves are bothering the farmers here no little. Yesterday a farmer drove in with a crate of twelve dozen eggs. Hitching his horse in the public lot he went to a near-by store to see about delivering the eggs, but when he returned to the buggy to get the eggs, the whole shooting match was gone.

It is said from the highest authority that no negro census taker will be appointed in this district, so the colored applicants were having trouble for nothing. It is not known how many applicants were examined at High Point, but at Greensboro nearly all who applied will be needed, if their examination papers pass muster. There will be twelve appointees in Greensboro and six at the Proximity settlement. In the county at large there will be about sixty, and unless a great many applicants at High Point there was not such a great excess of candidates, when the negroes are eliminated from the contest.

An Officer Resigns.

Assistant City Tax Collector J. W. McNairy has resigned that office, and Collector Sherrill has not yet named his successor.

Another farmer stopped his horse near the curbing on Ashe street and went into a residence to deliver some butter leaving fifteen pounds of butter in his buggy. When he drove around to a store and reached under the buggy seat to get his wholesale butter package, it wasn't there. It had been stolen while he was in the Ashe street residence. At the present high price of butter, eggs, etc., farmers must realize that to leave such things unprotected, is like leaving money exposed. It is to many an irresistible temptation to steal.

In the bankruptcy court today an involuntary petition in bankruptcy was filed against the Southern Trading Stamp Company of Greensboro, by the Essex Wood Turning Company, Dr. J. T. J. Battle and other creditors. A subpoena, returnable February 10, was issued to the company to appear on that date and show cause, if any it had, why it should not be adjudged bankrupt.

Superior Court.

A two-weeks term of Superior Court, Judge W. J. Adams presiding, begins here Monday. This term is for the trial of civil cases exclusively. The calendar committee of the local bar has set 113 cases for trial. Many of these are of much local interest and of considerable magnitude in amount, and will require some time in being tried. The probability is that not half of the cases set can be disposed of, except by compromise, no suit and continuance.

To Reorganize Chamber of Commerce.

As a result of the agitation started ten days ago for paying the debts of the Greensboro Chamber of Commerce and putting it on its feet again a number of prominent business men of the city met last night and agreed on issuing a call for a mass meeting of citizens to be held next Thursday night for the purpose of the reorganization. On Thursday night, at the regular annual meeting of the Merchants Association strong resolutions were adopted calling for an early reorganization of the Chamber of Commerce, and in his annual report President Bernau called special attention to the damage the city, and especially its business interests, is sustaining daily on account of the need for the broader organization, and urged that the merchants take an active hand in the effort to revive the Chamber of Commerce and make it a go.

CLAY WORKS.

The Work of Constructing the Plant Being Rushed.

(Special to News and Observer.)
Franklin, Feb. 4.—Work is being pushed in the construction of buildings and reservoirs of the Southern Clay Company. It is expected to have the plant in operation by April 1st. The plant is a branch of the Golding Sons Company, who have been in the clay business since 1865. The principal office of the company is at Trenton, N. J.

ALIVE TO UPLIFT OF AGRICULTURE

Farmers Realizing Their Great Opportunities

SEEKING IMPROVED WAYS

The Great Meeting of Intelligent Farmers of Guilford Another Object Lesson of the Progressive Spirit That is Stirring the Agricultural Classes of the State From Murphy to Manteo—Means a Greater Day for the Old North State.

By ANDREW JOYNER.

Greensboro, N. C., Feb. 4.—The large gathering of intelligent farmers here yesterday, and it a rainy day, for the sole purpose of hearing from experts the doctrine of the new and better system of farming and to witness actual results of their own individual efforts last year in this county to raise the standard of farming by first raising more corn under improved methods, with the acknowledged corn in abundance present to prove it, means a great deal more than the casual observer or unimpressible news-gatherer or publisher would consider.

To the faithful and valuable expert representatives of the State and National Agricultural Departments it conveyed the gratifying spectacle of 250 white adult farmers, fifty at least of their sons, ranging from eleven to seventeen years of age, and eighty-five colored agricultural students, in one body, filling a county courthouse in a large city and not adjourning for dinner, so intent was the crowd to get agricultural knowledge and to exchange experiences in the actualities of farm operations of an improved order.

Along with these representative farmers was the result of only one year's effort in improved corn farming, a hundred specimens of seed corn being on exhibit, and fifty reports of fine results from demonstration work in corn culture for last year being available for every man's perusal.

Another strange, but significant fact, was that in this interested and interesting audience of sturdier dwellers on the farm and progressive operators of the soil of Guilford contiguous to Greensboro and essential to its genuine prosperity, there was not seen a single Greensboro banker, merchant, manufacturer, minister, lawyer, mechanic or other representative of the so-called industrial, commercial and religious progress and uplift of this great uplifting lip era. There was not a single editor of the city daily or weekly papers present there to get a new view of the coming real healthful progress of North Carolina. But the official educational force of the county was there, lending valuable presence and actual aid and cooperation.

There was no organization of the city in the shape of committees on entertainment and reception, etc. present or in existence or even thought of.

Thousands and tens of thousands of dollars have been expended by such Greensboro organizations within the past few years in a whole-souled commendable effort to entertain "strangers" within her gates, but it had not been thought of before yesterday that it would be the right thing, "and a paying investment" to have prepared ahead of the occasion some token of the real appreciation of these "home brethren" and of those from afar who had come to preach the gospel of better farming and better living for the country folk.

These farmers here yesterday didn't need a three o'clock dinner, after the meeting was over, gauging them by city stomachs, for they had perhaps each one eaten enough for breakfast of ham and eggs and sausage and crackling bread and the other substantial etceteras, which most city people nowadays cannot afford to last a city man well on towards his seven o'clock supper, but all the same, a spread in their honor would have meant much more than simply the "grub" or "provender" furnished. It would have meant that Greensboro's business men and preachers and lawyers and editors, had blazed a new path in North Carolina for other towns to follow, by showing that they saw the light at last, to-wit: that only by actual earnest heartfelt cooperation with the farmers in their efforts to increase production at less

Deta:alled Prolific Seed Corn

100 bus. per acre this year, two to six ears to stalk. Cleaned in a grader. \$2.50 per bu., seventy-five cents per peck. F. O. B. Iron Station, N. C., S. A. L.

W. A. CRAM,

Raleigh, N. C.

expense to increase the attractiveness of farm life. Can the dwellers in the cities become more prosperous or contented by cutting off the immense grain of money going outside the State in the way of freight and purchasing expense of articles and products that should be and could be raised at home.

At heart, all city business men are in thorough accord and sympathy with the farmers in these progressive movements, for they contribute liberally towards securing money and other articles of value to be given as prizes in all crop contests or in awarding premiums at fairs. The point is, that not yet have they seen that by some city organization they could show genuine hospitality and thereby acquire some earnest cooperative spirit in the life of the farmer, just as they so often do to other distinct bodies of delegates who come here and to other towns as delegates. A farmer from the country visiting the city on a distinct mission for the betterment of all, as well as himself, is just as much a guest as are strangers who troop here by hundreds on some political, fraternal, educational, professional or other convention business.

And the farmers themselves are getting into a new atmosphere of progressiveness here by getting peculiarly more liberal. Last year the \$100 in money to pay the boys' corn contest prizes was almost entirely made up by contributions from Greensboro people. For the coming year this \$100 has been increased to \$1,270 in cash prizes to boys alone. The first subscription was made by a farmer, and it was for \$100. Another farmer has put down for \$50, and there are several \$25 contributions from country farmers.

Again yesterday, when the Farmers' Association executive committee met, there was arrangement made for a liberal prize to the farmer making the most corn on one acre of land. After the amount of prizes was agreed upon, there being a first, second and third for contestants in this fee-for-all acre race, one farmer present announced that he would give a special additional prize of \$5 to the man raising over 226 bushels per acre. Another farmer added \$15 to this and another put up \$10, and a fourth offered a \$100, making \$150 extra raised among farmers for this object alone. Today it was stated by the secretary that at least \$350 had been added to this \$150 in smaller offers, so that besides getting the valuable money prize regularly offered by the association, the Guilford man who this year can possibly beat the record of the Wake one-acre corn yield will get an additional \$500 for bringing this distinction to Guilford county. I call that first-class and everlasting credit to the farming spirit of this or any other county and it is a fine evidence of the awakening and awakened public farmer professional pride in this community as well as in the State.

And if this keeps up it will not be long before the city and town people shall come to realize that the best investment in morals, in wisdom, in social pleasure and financial profit that they can make is to read more, and talk more and feel more on the great subject of the soil and the developers and tillers of it.

Another Big Saving.

That systematic methods used by a concern means a considerable saving is clearly demonstrated by County Auditor Abbott's report of insolvents just forwarded to the State. Before Mr. Abbott became auditor the county had no systematic way of keeping track of insolvents. This year the State's part of the insolvent taxes amounts to more than \$3,000, despite the fact that the insolvents are smaller than in the preceding years. In this one item alone several thousand dollars is saved the county each year by having a systematic method by which to keep close tab on insolvents.

Fireman McNeill Gratified.

Capt. James D. McNeill, of Fayetteville, president of the National Volunteer Firemen's Association, passed through here yesterday afternoon en route from Columbia, S. C., to Burlington, where he addressed the firemen last night in the interest of the Firemen's Fire Insurance Company. While in Columbia Capt. McNeill succeeded in having the South Carolina Legislature pass a bill establishing a firemen's relief fund for that State similar to the one passed by the North Carolina Legislature.

Would Hold for Grand Jury.

(Orange County Observer.)
Judge Cook has come to the front with a suggestion that foot ball players engaged in a rush that causes the death of a player should be indicted for manslaughter.—Exchange. The editor of the Orange County Observer—a justice of the peace—believes it would be his duty in a case of this kind, to hold the defendant for an investigation by the grand jury.